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Annual ministerial review: implementing the internationally agreed goals and commitments in regard to sustainable development

Statement submitted by Association tunisienne des mères, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 36 and 37 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* E/2008/100.

08-33907 (E) 120608 120608

Statement

Report on the Association tunisienne des mères panel on implementing the internationally agreed goals and commitments in regard to sustainable development

In response to the theme of the 2008 annual ministerial review: "Implementing the internationally agreed goals and commitments in regard to sustainable development", a panel discussion was held in Paris, on 11 April 2008, in the chamber of the French Government's Economic and Social Council in the Palais de l'Iéna. The meeting was held at the initiative of the Association tunisienne des mères, in close cooperation with the Ostad Elahi Foundation: Ethics and Human Solidarity, approved and endorsed by the French Government; the International Association of Economic and Social Councils and Similar Institutions (IAESCSI); and the Chair of Sustainable Development at the Institute of Political Science.

The panel, which also brought together participants from non-governmental (the World Wildlife Fund (WWF)) and intergovernmental (the Council of Europe) organizations, United Nations staff members (the United Nations and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)) and academics, considered the topic of "the exercise of responsible citizenship and its impact on sustainable development and the Millennium Development Goals" with a view to the formulation of recommendations.

In order to achieve more effective change at the global level, the question of responsible citizenship should be discussed and clarified at the international and local levels and the potential and modalities for action and initiatives by citizens as political, economic and social forces should be highlighted.

Citizens can intervene in all three of these areas. Through the exercise of responsibility, assuming that it can be exercised consciously, changes are being and will be made in political regimes, in the ways in which economies are organized and in the information that is available as a basis for personal choices. Since responsible citizenship and citizen action have their limits, and thus cannot be viewed as independent from efforts made in the context of international governance, the panel also focused on the interdependence of decisions made at the local level and on their impact.

Citizen action in promoting sustainable development and the Millennium Development Goals

Through extensive information campaigns conducted and coordinated by the appropriate United Nations agencies and through the international mass media (including the Internet), the people of the world could be encouraged to:

- Pressure governments to ensure respect for the commitments made at international conferences and to disseminate the values of ethics and solidarity;
- Vote for political platforms that take the Goals and environmental impact into account;
- Ask their elective officials what concrete action they have taken in this area;

- Lobby rich countries to stop subsidizing their agricultural sectors to the detriment of the people of the third world;
- Choose their careers and their businesses with sustainability in mind;
- Volunteer for projects sponsored by non-governmental organizations (NGOs) working in this field; and
- Become responsible consumers, including by knowing the difference between useful products and unnecessary ones and realizing that having more choices than they need does not necessarily give them more freedom of choice.

Ways in which international governance can promote responsible citizenship and citizen action concerning the Millennium Development Goals and sustainable development

Responsibility is becoming a major issue at international conferences, but care must be taken to ensure that "the need for individual responsibility" does not become a rhetorical argument that provides a pretext for failure to fulfil political and collective commitments. It is important to:

- Explain who is responsible for what and make it clear that failure to fulfil commitments will be punished;
- Establish the responsibility of those who apply economic theories with no concern for their impact on humankind;
- Give civil society more tools with which to promote development and the values of solidarity and ethics for all the peoples of the earth and to combat the corruption that undermines efforts to achieve those goals;
- Encourage inclusion of the world's philosophies and of democratic debate in the schools; the exercise of responsible citizenship in the context of sustainable development requires universal education in the values of citizenship and humanism;
- Hold more discussions and conduct more group studies on the theme of "subjective well-being for all", show that this is not inconsistent with the adoption of lifestyles and patterns of consumption more in keeping with the goal of sustainable development and, by so doing, encourage citizens to accept certain constraints;
  - Encourage genuine public discussion of what it means "for all of us to live well";
  - Let citizens make responsible choices as consumers and, to that end, to give everyone:
  - An opportunity to learn the source of consumer goods, how they are produced and how they will be disposed of once they have been used;
  - Information on societies that flout standards for environmental protection and decent working conditions;
  - An understanding of the concept of the "ecological footprint, which quantifies the bioproductive area that individuals and peoples need in order to produce the bulk of the resources they consume and to absorb their wastes.

Topics and concepts for reflection

We cannot call on people to exercise responsible citizenship without first calling into question and redefining the concepts of choice and freedom in order to include the idea of the global commons as a basis for the collective effort to build a responsible inheritance for the future.

Other topics for reflection with a view to more responsible citizenship might include:

- Ways to decompartmentalize national and international organizations so that they can act and think in a cross-cutting, coordinated manner;
- Ways to defragment public accountability, and thus to expand democratic debate to include all areas of governance;
- Ways for non-institutional stakeholders to have an impact on governance;
- Ways to develop strategies for solidarity that rely on shared responsibility by reconsidering the distribution of responsibilities among stakeholders (such as governments, markets, families, citizens and NGOs); and
- Ways to incorporate the precautionary principle when dealing with social issues in order not to make mistakes in the name of social development.

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Statement submitted by World Trade Centers Association, an organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 30 and 31 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* E/2008/100.

08-33927 (E) 110608

Statement

The World Trade Centers Association Conference on Peace and Stability Through Trade was held with the assistance and sponsorship of DESA/ECOSOC in the Dag Hammarskjold Library Auditorium on 2 May 2008. This was the second instance of the conference; the first being held last year in the Oslo City Hall.

Sustainable development is necessary for peace and stability, and international trade is a powerful tool for sustainable development. Trade, by broadening markets and expanding supplier networks, is a particularly robust driver of sustainable development. Investments in production capacity are stabilized when there is a broad customer base and no dependence on any one market. Likewise, diversification of suppliers of components and raw materials contributes to sustainability by reducing sourcing vulnerabilities.

World Trade Centers through their efforts to increase two-way trade are economic development engines that have helped many regions to prosper. While the World Trade Centers Association, is a private, non-profit, non-political organization, the WTCA's member WTCs can be public, private, quasi-public, non-profit, for profit, individuals, partnerships or corporations. Despite their structural and operational variation, they are all united in their commitment to developing trade as a means toward peace and stability. Though the WTCA has pursued this goal since it's inception in 1970, after 11 September 2001 when the New York World Trade Center was destroyed, the members of the WTCA have been more dedicated to this aspect of our mission.

There were several goals for this conference:

1. To raise awareness that trade can be an effective tool in ensuring peace and encouraging stability;

2. To build relationships and explore collaborative opportunities for the WTCA and its members with development-oriented organizations both within and outside the United Nations;

3. To pursue and investigate partnerships for projects applying the trade development capabilities of the WTCA and its 316 members worldwide, working through the WTCA's newly formed WTCA Foundation;

4. To engage the business community and encourage dialogue on the developmental power of international trade; and

5. To inspire World Trade Centers around the world to continue their work with the understanding that by fostering trade they are building peace.

To build upon the success of the event WTCA will:

1. Pursue media coverage of this issue as well as this specific event;

2. Will support the efforts of other WTCs around the world that wish to organize similar events;

3. Plan to organize the third edition of this event in Spring 2009, location to be discussed;

4. Continue collaborative discussions with H. E. Francisco Lorenzo of the Dominican Republic and others toward participation in the MDG Summit; and

5. Evaluate proposals for projects in Palestine, the People's Democratic Republic of Korea, Afghanistan and Iraq that can illustrate the Peace and Stability Through Trade concept.

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Statement submitted by World Family Organization, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 30 and 31 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* E/2008/100.

08-33893 (E) 120608

Statement

The Warsaw Declaration — World Family Summit+3

Working Out of Poverty: Mobilizing for Action by building trust, bridges, capability and partnership

The 140 delegations from Countries representing all Continents, composed by Governments at National, Regional and Local levels, NGOs, Parliamentarians, Academia, Judiciary Systems, Media, Business Community and Families, gathered at the World Family Summit +3, in Warsaw, Poland. After three days of interaction and deliberation, they decided to support and recommend to the Annual Ministerial Review of the United Nations Economic and Social Council and to all deliberative and executive instances at national and local levels of their respective countries the present declaration:

Recognizing that economic, social, and environmental development is based on human dignity, human rights, equality, peace, democracy, good governance and transparency, mutual responsibility and cooperation, ethical values, and respect for religious and cultural diversity;

Reaffirming that the Family is the fundamental entity of society, plays a key role in economic, social, environmental and Sustainable Development, and bares the responsibility for the transmission to present and future generations of the above mentioned values;

Maintaining awareness that empowering families, particularly women, to exercise their own capacities and full participation in policy formulation, implementation, and evaluation of decisions, determines the functioning and well-being of our societies and is fundamental for the process of Sustainable Development;

Recognizing the contributions of the United Nations World Conferences and Summits held in the 1990s and their follow-ups, the Millennium Summit, the Millennium Declaration, and the Millennium Development Goals;

Recognizing the historic moment for the Family held in 1994 with the Declaration of the United Nations International Year of the Family and the Celebration in 2004 of the Tenth Anniversary of the International Year of the Family;

Reaffirming the contents of the Sanya Declaration, the Aracaju Practical Plan of Action 2006-2015, and the Dead Sea Declaration approved respectively at the World Family Summit in China, 2004, World Family Summit +1 held in Brazil, and World Family Summit +2 held in Jordan;

Unanimously conclude and recommend:

I. Family and Poverty

1. Economic, social, and environmental protections are interdependent and mutually reinforcing components of Sustainable Development, which must be the framework for our efforts to achieve a higher quality of life for all Families.

2. Governments, institutions, enterprises, and countries are learning that dealing with the family as a whole, is a powerful tool in addressing economic, social, environmental, and Sustainable Development issues.

3. Eradication of poverty must be based on sustained economic growth, social development, environmental protection, and social justice, and requires the involvement of the Family with equal opportunities and the full and equal participation of women and men as agents and beneficiaries of family-centered Sustainable Development.

4. In many parts of the World, Families are continuously excluded from national policies and programmes that target poverty eradication, which results in a lifetime transmission of the cycle of poverty. Our common goal for a stable and prosperous world economy is only possible if the productivity and consumer power of all Families are realized.

5. "Decent Work" strategies are the guarantee for a more balanced and Sustainable Development, poverty reduction, and better lives for Families, and should direct their efforts at:

a) Developing skills for sustainable livelihoods.

b) Investing in jobs and the community.

c) Promoting entrepreneurship.

d) Promoting fair trade.

e) Making money work for poverty reduction.

f) Building local development through cooperatives.

g) Overcoming discrimination.

h) Working to end child labor.

i) Ensuring incomes and basic social security.

j) Promoting the United Nations World Fund for Solidarity.

II. Family and Health in the context of Sustainable Development

6. The vision of a Primary Health Care must be guided by the principles of responsiveness to families' health needs, and place greater emphasis on health promotion and prevention as well as local systems.

7. Pregnancy and childbirth should be a reason for celebration. However, each year, more than half a million women die during pregnancy or childbirth; additionally, more than 10 million children die before their fifth birthday and almost 40% within the first month of life. The direct causes of maternal, newborn, and child deaths are largely preventable and treatable using proven, cost-effective, and currently available interventions.

8. HIV/AIDS has multidimensional impacts on families. Directly there are impacts of illness, death, and bereavement of family members (almost 20 million children in the world have lost both of their parents to HIV/AIDS). The costs associated with illness and death have placed massive burdens on families around the world and have driven many millions of families into poverty. The need to

provide care to family members with AIDS has also placed an additional burden on families that has fallen particularly heavily on women and girls.

9. Given the size and gravity of these problems and challenges, no individual country, agency, or organization can address these issues alone. The World Family Organization will set forth efforts to promote new events and actions as well as support the existing ones towards the achievements of the MDG 4, 5 and 6 in the context of Sustainable Development by:

a) Locating Primary Health Care in a broader agenda of Sustainable Development.

b) Mobilizing for action in favor of maternal, newborn, and child health care.

c) Mobilizing for action present and former First Ladies at National and Local level, international and national, multilateral and bilateral partners as well as international, national and local personalities in favor of maternal, newborn and child health care.

d) Supporting HIV/AIDS prevention and family-friendly programmes and taking into account the great diversity of family structures throughout the world and the specific and different needs of women, men, girls, and boys.

III. Family and Fair Education in the context of Sustainable Development

10. Education is a fundamental human right and is a key ingredient for Sustainable Development. It provides children, youth and adults with the power to reflect, make choices, and enjoy better lives. It breaks the cycle of poverty. Mothers' educations have strong impacts on health, fertility, and family welfare.

11. Education is a crucial basis for an active and fulfilling life. In all countries, lifelong education and training is also a prerequisite for citizenship, participation in economy, prosperity and consequently for Sustainable Development.

12. Education for All and a fairer education are achievable and affordable. The cost of providing the world's children with primary education requires less than 2 per cent of the annual estimated military costs worldwide. Baring this in mind, we recommend to all stakeholders working for Sustainable Development to act towards:

a) Driving all key actors in the education efforts.

b) Ensuring universal access to education.

c) Including education in national anti-poverty strategies.

d) Eliminating gender disparities in education.

e) Including persons with specific needs to full access to education.

IV. Family and Decent Housing and Living Environment

13. Housing and the surrounding environment are particularly important for the family. It is recognized that good housing can promote emotional and psychological security, good health, safety, and well-being.

14. A home is the most important asset most families will ever own. For poor families around the world, it is likely to be the only significant asset they will possess.

15. Housing in the context of Sustainable Development must be in environments where families are safe and healthy and reside in livable, equitable, sustainable and productive conditions. This would address the need for the protection of women, children, and older persons. Decent housing is an external good picture reflecting good policies of Sustainable Development.

16. Recognizing that a roof and an address are not enough we recommend that:

a) The "decent house" concept respects that basic human rights need facilities, which include infrastructure, services, amenities, security, trading, employment opportunities, social relations, and quality of the environment.

b) Discussions on "decent house" must be at the core of urban and rural poverty alleviation.

c) Discussions on regulating the urban and rural land market must lead to more land availability, particularly to the poor families favoring Sustainable Development.

d) The access to the many socially-oriented financing mechanisms and innovative proposals in many forms must bring together a variety of actors, including urban developers, regulated financial institutions, government agencies, credit cooperatives, and NGOs with an urban poverty focus on Sustainable Development.

V. Family, Domestic Violence, and Sustainable Development

17. Neglect, abuse, and violence against family members take many forms – physical, psychological, emotional, financial – and occur in every social, economic, ethnic, and geographic sphere.

18. Although men are sometimes subject to domestic violence, women and the girl child constitute the overwhelming majority of victims. Women living in poverty appear to be disproportionately affected.

19. There is strong evidence that domestic violence is caused and sustained by the political, social, economic, and structural inequalities between men and women in society, and the rigid gender roles and power relations between the sexes. Violence between partners in a marital or consensual union has to be considered as serious as violence between two strangers.

20. Domestic violence is a serious threat to Sustainable Development. It requires commitments from Governments, local authorities, and families themselves for its eradication. We recommend actions:

a) Involving all society to rethink the causes of domestic violence.

b) Protecting laws and actions on establishing legal and media frameworks to combat domestic violence.

c) Measuring the problem by encouraging and supporting the collection of data and research on domestic violence.

d) Implementing strategies for prevention in the family, schools and the community, including in-conflict and post-conflict situations, for better and lasting results.

e) Encouraging the development of frameworks for national family protection from violence that identifies the roles and responsibilities of all stakeholders and supports multidisciplinary teams.

VI. Family, Gender Equality and Poverty in the context of Sustainable Development

21. Two major areas – violence and poverty – continue to be major obstacles to gender equality worldwide. Globalization has added new dimensions to both areas by creating new challenges, such as trafficking of women and girls, changing the nature of armed conflict, increasing the gap between nations and genders, and detaching macroeconomic policy from social protection concerns.

22. Although the status of women has advanced in some important aspects in the past decade, the progress has been uneven and inequalities between women and men persist. Major obstacles still remain and have serious consequences for the well-being of Families.

23. Women's poverty is directly related to the absence of economic opportunities and autonomy, lack of access to economic resources, including credit, land ownership and inheritance, lack of access to education and support services, and to their minimal participation in the decision-making processes. All of these conditions jeopardize the role of the women and the gender equality on the process of Sustainable Development.

24. The equality of opportunities of the girl child and the empowerment and advancement of women, including the right to freedom of thought, conscience, religion and belief, so they are active agents contributing to the moral, ethical, spiritual and intellectual needs of the family, guarantee them the possibility to realize their full potential in the Family and society and shape their lives in accordance with their own aspirations, which is essential for the process of Sustainable Development; therefore, we recommend:

a) Reinforcing the Beijing Platform for Action.

b) Encouraging all actors of Sustainable Development to implement the Convention on the Elimination on All Forms of Discrimination against Women.

c) Empowering women and men equally in all spheres of society.

d) Recognizing the need to fund the promotion of gender equality and women empowerment in equal proportion to men.

e) Increasing political leverage of supporters of gender equality.

f) Encouraging gender balance in all themes of Sustainable Development, and reinforcing the role, position, participation and integration of women.

VII. Family and Local and Global Partnerships for Sustainable Development

25. Encouraging global and local partnerships for Sustainable Development is imperative to improve the well-being of the families all over the world.

26. We recommend that:

a) The role of the United Nations in promoting effective local and global partnership for Sustainable Development be strengthened.

b) The identification and creation of mechanisms to disseminate Success Stories, good practices, and lessons learned on local and global partnerships on implementing the MDGs, towards the benefit of families be encouraged.

c) The enhancement of international solidarity at the global level in order to meet the needs of the local level for Sustainable Development be highly incentivized by all stakeholders of the process of Sustainable Development.

The Participants also decided to request to the World Family Organization to make the present Declaration known to all Governments and other Organizations affiliated, as well as to introduce it to the Annual Ministerial Review of the UN-ECOSOC 2008 as a Statement.

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Statement submitted by Women's Federation for World Peace International, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 30 and 31 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* E/2008/100.

08-34632 (E) 060608

Statement

Background

In support of the Economic and Social Council's (ECOSOC) Annual Ministerial Review (AMR) and its intention to: Assess the state of implementation; explore key challenges in ensuring that the global consensus on sustainable development is translated into action at the national level; promote the implementation of Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Programme of Implementation (JPOI); contribute to the efforts to integrate the implementation of MDG7 with other MDGs; and consider recommendations and proposals for action, including new initiatives, the Women's Federation for World Peace International (WFWPI) similarly worked to assess, explore, promote, contribute and further consider new initiatives, recommendations and proposals in its broad scope of work toward the fulfillment of the Millennial Development Goals (MDGs.) To this end, WFWPI submits this statement and its recommendations for consideration during ECOSOC's 2008 AMR.

Being on the ground in more than 50 nations worldwide, WFWPI staff and volunteers face the daily challenges of sustaining grassroots efforts to empower women and change lives. The micro implementation challenges WFWPI faces parallel the macro challenges of each nation committed to sustainable development.

The recommendations contained herein build on the experience of our women in the field as well as assessment and review of events such as the parallel event during the 52nd Commission on the Status of Women entitled, "Mobilizing Grassroots Partners to Finance Empowerment and Change Lives, One Woman at a Time."

Innovations

WFWPI volunteers and partner organizations continue to find ways to employ simple, practical, replicable methods that ordinary people can use to mobilize partners in the empowerment and improvement of people's lives. The specific projects underway and referenced are reviewed in our companion report of promising practices for the Innovation Fair 2008.

Here, however, we wish to clarify the nature of the innovative "vertical" components of WFWPI's approach, aspects that are not traditionally noted or assessed in sustainable development reports. Our staff and volunteers nevertheless pay particular attention to this dimension of sustainable development and consider it pivotal to their successes.

WFWPI has a clear philosophical framework that recognizes and makes central what we call the "logic of love." That is, essential to our conceptual framework is the recognition that the rights of human beings are derived from their essential nature, which is both spiritual as well as physical. One of the key ways we experience and talk about concerns of the human spirit is in terms of the human heart: love, compassion, desire, aspiration and so on. Recognizing that our human rights are rooted in our dignity as integrated spiritual and physical beings, when we address issues of sustainable development, WFWPI develops an integrated response that addresses both the "vertical" dimensions of the issue (human dignity, need for love and respect, compassion etc.) as well as the practical and technical "horizontal" elements of sustainable development. Moreover, while the external actions prioritize physical needs, the internal priority calls for WFWPI respondents to continually strive for the highest and best aspirations of the human heart to lead the practical work of our hands.

In essence what is referred to here as "vertical" describes the heartfelt awareness of the profound value of each human being as well as the deliberate intension to honor that profound value. This is done by attending to the whole person including the needs that dignify the human spirit such as love, compassion, hope, trust, aspiration, desire for peace and fulfillment. The reference to "horizontal" refers to the practical and physical needs and realities of human life.

This priority of heart that employs the "logic of love" is thematic to the work of WFWPI and has been most notable in our reconciliation work through the Bridge of Peace Sisterhood ceremonies that continue to make a significant contribution to reconciliation efforts between former enemy groups, whether the groupings are national, ethnic, racial or tribal. A natural result of this priority of heart is the awareness and understanding that all people belong to one human family. With this

perspective we naturally conclude that no one can be thoroughly un-conflicted and at peace when some among our family continue to suffer in poverty, disease or violence.

Therefore, when volunteers embark upon an endeavor of any kind, a key component that is engaged is the element of heart. Friendships are made. Sisterhood relationships are created across lines of difference be they enmity, education, language, culture, religion, ethnicity or economic class. Familiarity grounded in the movement of the heart is sought as the basis upon which the work begins. Naturally, work that is taken up includes commitments of the heart that reach beyond present resources, present understanding and even personal adequacies. However, as is evidenced in the history of the work of WFWPI, these limitations were temporary. The determination and commitment of heart found ways to gain access to the needed practical resources of funding, assistance, development of capacities and so on.

That is, the "vertical" foundation of the work of WFWPI staff and volunteers raised the line of sight and vision of those engaging in the work of development, creation and management of schools, microcredit projects, service-learning and more, and have since expanded many of these efforts into meaningful lifestyles and ongoing commitments that provide the foundation for sustainability. Global challenges are addressed in this way by personal vision, commitment and decisions. That is, the gaps in sustainable development can and should be filled by integrated actions that address both the vertical and the horizontal components of human development.

Implications for the global community

We are convinced that these underutilized vertical elements of sustainable development are largely overlooked today. However they are supported in the mandates of the United Nations Charter and here we wish to bring to the attention of the Member States again, the simple potency and strategic nature of developing a culture of heart, of friendship and good neighborliness.

Perhaps our historical familiarity with the words "friendship" and "good neighborliness" have led us collectively to underestimate their value and efficacy as we focused on more pressing issues of post-war and cold-war diplomacy and development. But perhaps we would all do well to look again at the extraordinary nature of this very ordinary concept of friendship to hold the world together in ways that law, reason and duty cannot.

To this end, we only need to re-read the Purposes and Principles (Article I of Chapter I) of the UN Charter. The Charter's second paragraph, second only to the articulation of the most urgent purpose of the United Nations to maintain international peace and security, notes the purpose of the UN is to develop friendly relations among nations based on respect for the principle of equal rights and self determination of peoples, and to take other appropriate measures to strengthen universal peace.

This is no accident. The potency of friendship was clearly recognized as nations began to emerge from the ravages of war. With the complexity of human affairs, development and sustainability issues in the twenty-first century perhaps it is time to look again at and to integrate into the contributions to peace and development, the cultivation of friendships at every level and thus to take seriously, matters of the heart and the logic of love. Friendship goes far beyond the provisioning of information, services and the latest technologies. Friendships bridge gaps, making possible the otherwise implausible.

In conclusion, on the occasion of the ECOSOC 2008 Annual Ministerial Review during the High Level Segment, WFWPI recommends and encourages reflection on the crucial commitment to embracing and addressing matters of the human heart and spirit that are quintessential to true human dignity. By integrating the logic of love with provision for practical implementation, sustainability becomes a natural characteristic of development pursued by partners and friends. We have seen this approach empower and transform the lives of both server and served as well as create sustained and significant positive change in standards of living, quality of lives and advancement toward fulfillment of the Millennium Development Goals.

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Statement

It is the mission of The MPTF to support & empower people marginalized by poverty, capacity deprivation, gender biases and disabilities- with focus on equity, justice, right to healthy sustainable living, health care, and food security. We mobilize the necessary resources for inclusive development - with priorities to enable (capacity deprived people) to participate in, and benefit from development. Thus the KEY issue is empowerment & enhancement of capacities, for positive MDG(s) outcomes in India and elsewhere.

In 2000; based on Millennium Declaration & MDG(s), the international community made a commitment to halve the proportion of people living in extreme poverty and hunger between 2000 and 2015. Mid-way through this focus, as the world moves toward the deadline for achieving the MDGs, it is clear that some progress has been made. However, though poverty and malnutrition rates are declining, it is less clear who is actually being helped. Are development programs reaching most needy, or primarily benefiting those who are easier to reach, leaving the very poorest?

Micro-Finance (MF) is an empowering, capacity-building tool to poverty reduction rate that has provided significant economic and non-economic externalities to low-income households in developing countries. A gradual realization that MF in itself is not enough; that it is not a replacement for unemployment; inaccessible markets, inefficient education and/or health programs. The main objective of MF Institution and Poverty Alleviation, calls for a holistic and in-depth understanding of the interplay between economic, social and cultural components of the development process.

To that effect The MPTF has created its *MF (Credit/Grant) Fund/Program, being implemented in India. Since 2001 The MPTF has been participating in regional & global microcredit summits (submitting Institutional Plans since 2006 to participate as official delegate). With extensive meetings, field work/NGO visits (25-30), research, consultations and exposure to varied & multiple models of microcredit in India (implemented by NGO/GOVT/Banks and MFI), we have developed a program, which focuses on Integrated Model of Loans/Grants with Economic/Social/Health Empowerment. We believe that if poverty is about power, then solutions must focus on the empowerment of people themselves. "Massive poverty and obscene inequality are such scourges of our times ... as social evils ... ." Sustainable Development cannot occur without self-determination, without Human Rights Approach to Development. Human Rights equate Sustainable Development.

The Objectives/Strategies 2007-8 are:

A) To increase stakeholders' awareness of Micro-Finance integral to the development equation; To assess & promote contribution of Micro-Credit to MDGs; To encourage new partnerships-by promoting women's economic participation, gender equity and household well-being; To Promote Millennium Village Concept and integrated development involving all MDGs.

B) To undertake prudent actions as part of the global community to increase access to financial services; To ensure, that MF can be used effectively to contribute to the achievement of the Goals of the Millennium Declaration (2000).

C) To provide Micro-Loan/Grant to those living below poverty line of $1.00 a day (MDG1) for income enterprise- integrated with health, water, sanitation and hygiene related positive outcomes—which in turn will boost livelihoods—which would empower people to engage in sustainable activities.

D) The Thadhani Foundation's MICRO-CREDIT – FUND (MCF) is innovative and multi-dimensional in nature, designed to have direct impact on the poor – through various partnerships, including with NGO and other entities. This is totally in keeping with the United Nations development agenda & MDGs—poverty, health, education, gender issues and partnerships. The MPTF is a strong proponent of the Millennium Village Concept promoting cohesion and sustainability.

E) We provide capacity building, training and consultations, locally, regionally and internationally, as well as, Cash loans/grants to achieve sustainable results in India

F) Our strategic Model—in the final analysis-we believe is in keeping with the current and emerging problems related to the targets to be met by 2015. We plan to expand our reach and move toward self-sufficiency of the people we empower. Since access to financial services improves women's status, it is imperative that women play an active role in any microcredit program. As a result through Self-Help-Group and other strategies—women start owning land & property—and play STRONGER ROLE IN DECISION MAKING /LEADERSHIP ACTIVITIES. Thus ensuring well-being of the families—children's education, diet and over all health.

G) If poverty is about power, then solutions must focus on the empowerment of the people themselves ... WE DO.

United Nations E/2008/NGO/13

Economic and Social Council

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Annual ministerial review: implementing the internationally agreed goals and commitments in regard to sustainable development

Statement submitted by Ius Primi Viri International Association, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 36 and 37 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* E/2008/100.

08-34815 (E) 120608

Statement

Implementing the internationally agreed goals and commitments in regard to sustainable development – The role of education:

Unsustainable patterns of consumption and production in developed countries pose a serious threat: these lifestyles negatively impacted the efforts to mainstream the principle of sustainability. At the same time, persistent poverty remains a challenge to sustainable development which, as stressed by Bruntland Commission in 1987, should meet the needs of the present generation without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

The achievement of sustainable development objectives requires a long time horizon, sound policies, and effective international cooperation. In synthesis, world society requires a new education so that human beings will be able to learn since birth to respect life, their and others dignity, and laws ruling human interactions and social development. So they will develop a conscience capable to make free choices during the whole span of their life.

Since 2000, the governments of the world, together with the United Nations, launched four initiatives for development focused on education:

- The Millennium Development Goals
- Education for All
- The United Nations Literacy Decade.
- The United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development.

They are in line with the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, and are important steps towards realizing the Right to Education for All, essential and indispensable for the exercise of all other human rights and for development.

Education for sustainable development is a vision of education seeking to balance human and economic well-being with cultural traditions and respect for the Earth's natural resources. The role of greatest responsibility is played by teachers, who control and direct mental, cultural and social development during the most important stages of man's life.

At present teachers do not educate, in the etymological sense of the term, that is "exducere", to bring out individual's potentialities, rather condition to repeat an endless series of notions that stifle the creative potentialities of human brain and compel it to stereotypical behaviours discriminating the fundamental physiological functioning given by genetic heredity.

The first step to implement sustainable development through education consists in training educators capable to train new human beings able to face and solve the serious ecological disasters as well as the psychosocial pollution leading us to self-destruction. A new pedagogical methodology is needed (as stressed by UNECE Strategy for Education for Sustainable Development).

To this end we apply studies based on thirty years of multidisciplinary and integrated research, which led to an innovative methodology capable to transform abstract principles into consciousness and behaviour. It provides basic knowledge enabling individuals to recognize themselves in their primary roles as men and women, considering that they begin to mature as such since birth ad that every piece of information contributes to determine their behaviour.

No law, no ethic rule, no human right could be ever realized without this step, as to form citizens, aware of the importance of human rights in inspiring their actions and those of the States they belong to, is fundamental. The fulfilment of these rights in individuals and State behaviours will open the road to concrete respect for environment, whose "health" corresponds to the wellbeing of mankind.

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Statement submitted by Mumbai Educational Trust, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 30 and 31 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

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08-35177 (E) 110608

Statement

MET has been offering high technology based professional programmes for over a decade. We are presenting key innovations in conformation of our commitment to sustainable development while implementing MDGs.

Implementation of agreed Goals to Ensure Environmental Sustainability:

- Integrate the principles of sustainable development into country policies and programmes; reverse loss of environmental resources
- Reduce biodiversity loss, achieving, by 2010, a significant reduction in the rate of loss
- Reduce by half the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation
- Achieve significant improvement in lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers, by 2020

In India now after a decade of liberalization, a stable platform for accelerated development has been built. But in order to ensure environmental sustainability, appropriate tools and technologies need to be introduced in rural and urban areas to achieve the MDGs, especially no. 7. Through Project-TRUTH and MUSEQ – Vidya Setu/Vidya Shakti, students and faculty of MET are networking to implement a pilot project in this direction.

A. Project-TRUTH

Under Project-TRUTH, self-sustained employment generating eco-system conservation based programmes are designed to bring about attainment of MDGs, especially MDG No. 7 through innovative interventions.

The project-TRUTH attempts to holistically develop indigenous people through the following key Innovations:

a) Popularizing sheep/goat rearing based on local forage resources – 200 beneficiary families
b) Training and building eco-friendly fish culture farms– 150 beneficiary families
c) Generating farm motive power by gasification of locally grown weeds – pilot plant

B. MUSEQ - VIDYA SETU/ VIDYA SHAKTI

MET has developed a unique programme, MUSEQ – Vidya Setu/Vidya Shakti, based on networking of youth with the underprivileged sections of the society in Mumbai suburb area. It seeks to reach out to the poorest of the poor and deprived urban sections in the vicinity. The half a million strong students/ faculty community of the university in Mumbai will hopefully reach out to the underprivileged masses. MET has already completed a pilot in Bandra - Vidya Setu/Vidya Shakti – A Knowledge Bridge for Societal Bonding. Since the programme is based on voluntary input, students are entitled to get credits for their work. This year MET students have covered 1750 families under the programme in the vicinity of the institution.

The Key Innovations used are:

a) Benchmark survey to register the underprivileged - 1750 families
b) Designed and implemented Vidya-Shakti – a job opportunity fair for the underprivileged
c) Developed a unique platform – *Career Sans Barriers* bringing NGOs, corporations and voluntary agencies together.

Through these innovations, MET has been implementing the pilot projects. Project-TRUTH and Vidya Setu, confirming our commitment to "The internationally agreed Goals and commitments in regard to sustainable development". Since these have been circulated by the Secretary General of UN, we hope and pray that similar projects are taken up elsewhere to develop urban and rural areas.

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Statement submitted by Oasis Open City Foundation, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 30 and 31 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* E/2008/100.

08-35903 (E) 160608

Statement

The present report includes recommendations related to the theme of the Coordinated Segment to Sustainable Development for local and regional planning, as endorsed by the Economic and Social council. The permanent forum was organized by FOCA with Open City International Foundation Inc. with the participation of national and international, State and Federal authorities, Municipalities, universities, practitioners and organizations of civil society, to fulfil the Open City concept. Through this Forum an Open City Declaration was adopted and focused on the role of partnerships in sustaining development, improving regional capacity, facing global challenges and achieving the 7th Millennium Development Goal.

Open City Paris Declaration: Foreword

- The need to ensure the implementation of ECOSOC's recommendations;
- The need to have tools to evaluate approaches and results of projects following ECOSOC's recommendations;
- The urgent need to approve and divulge approaches following ECOSOC's recommendations that become models to be replicated worldwide;
- The need for urgent action on behalf of world sustainability;
- FOCA with Open City International Foundation Inc. created a "Partnership for Results" permanent forum with several workshops and virtual conferences, studying cases, analyzing common factors of success and failures among implemented projects, looking for transversal approaches.
- These statement present recommendations consolidated with partners in two of the workshops, respectively, in Lisbon and in Paris, as approaches to be followed on projects on behalf of sustainable development.

Recommendations:

1. Partnerships have to build forms of effective cooperation among institutions, business organizations, civil society, to create growth and employment, researching new forms of civil development and human possibilities for contributing to the Millennium Development Goals.

2. In order to succeed, partnerships for sustainable development have to incorporate in their strategies the civic competence and the entrepreneurial spirit as engines of progress and evolution to enhance democratic development.

3. Local as well transnational associative forms for working together towards common, measurable objectives and results have to be priorities.

4. There is positive correlation between citizenship, economic development and democratic civic life. Citizenship is to be considered in approaches and actions as the major strategic component for getting results.

5. At all levels a new type of education towards a common concept of democratic development has to be considered. This education cannot be left to improvisation but it has to be built over time because it is a fusion of "awareness" and "understanding" of democratic and sustainable development which takes time to be

assimilated. Therefore, education for development and for cooperation should start in schools.

6. Economic activities have to be based on the principles of responsibility, solidarity and sustainability as an answer to the problems caused by current social and environmental problems.

7. Business activities have to integrate environmental and social issues.

8. Leading companies have a new task for discharging Corporate Social Responsibility as an innovative function to become leaders of the civil society.

9. New Agro-ecological approaches integrated with new, processes and techniques have to be identified, promoted and supported for reaching the necessary critical amounts to face global markets but also promote social inclusions and environmental sustainability. The model of monoculture which is dependent on chemical additives and generates social exclusion and does not consider food supply has in many places reached the point of diminishing returns so new models are needed.

10. Initiatives demonstrating a previous territorial analysis and research and adequate planning must be privileged as there is no more space for community actions that are not integrated in a wider plan. The risk of failure is too high.

11. Any local economic development approach has to consider and assure all the productive chain: social organization, environmental impact, industrial value added, world marketing position and market linking.

12. There is the need to capacitate public managers and social actors to territorial planning taking in considerations the social, environmental and the economic dimension and the global perspective.

13. Housing is part of the development process. House policies have to be planned integrated with economic offers to avoid urban concentrations above a certain limit.

14. House policies have to consider the urgent inclusion of the sustainability of natural resources (water and energy) in the building process. Tools for adequacy of existing buildings have to be considered.

15. Agro-industry networks should be formed by agriculture families and organized in association or cooperatives as the main path to face most of nowadays challenges. Network of organized families capacitate to produce with equal quality are able to assure the needed food supply, turn neglected rural areas into productive areas, keep people on rural areas preventing social exclusion and impacts of "big metropolis", maximizing the added value of local products. These networks are an important tool for sustainable development.

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Statement submitted by Legião da Boa Vontade, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 30 and 31 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* E/2008/100.

08-35911 (E) 190608

Statement

INTRODUCTION

In contribution to 0074he Annual Ministerial Review (AMR) and to the Forum for Cooperation and Development, the Legion of Good Will (LGW), a Brazilian Organization in general consultative status since 1999 with ECOSOC, presents its innovative practices to all the participants of the Substantive Session 2008 in the High Level Segment Meeting in New York City.

Since the Rio Earth Summit — the most important international conference on environment and development, in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil — world leaders and civil society have met to discuss the promotion of sustainable development. In addition to this historical aspect, Latin America holds a strategic position in this crucial topic, particularly in regard to the territory occupied by the Amazon rainforest. Brazil has progressed as a world reference in the production of renewable energies while also promoting national economic growth policies both in social and infrastructure areas. Nevertheless, to reach the balance between progress, protection of natural resources and human security much more is yet to be done in the educational area — in all levels of society. As the LGW's President, José de Paiva Netto has said: "The urgent need to widely expand the ecological consciousness of the people before the decrease in quality of life becomes irreversible is justified. This has been the challenge faced by many pragmatic idealists. However, greed is at times stronger than reason. Carelessness in the preparation of certain communities in order to prevent that the soil does not turn sterile appears to be superior to the survival instinct".

While pursuing its mission to "Promote Education and Culture with Spirituality, so there may be Food, Health and Work for everyone, to form the Ecumenical Citizen", the Legion of Good Will works hard to reach all the Millennium Development Goals. It assists over 6 million children, teenagers, adults and elderly people under social vulnerability every year — an expressive target that has been exceeded year after year. With independent offices in Brazil, Argentina, Bolivia, Uruguay, Paraguay, Portugal and the United States of America, the LGW is very active in the 7th MDG: "To Ensure Environmental Sustainability" while transversally working on ecological awareness in its network of community centers, schools, and in all its social and educational programs. The immediate results observed in families' attitudes are potentialized as years go by. A good illustration of this are the income generating activities, starting from the use of new techniques that allow the utilization of products that would be discarded and the reutilization of materials, showing that by protecting our environment we can also promote development and poverty eradication.

In Social Communication, the LGW organizes public awareness campaigns that reach millions of people through television, radio, internet, magazines, flyers, etc. Under the motto "The destruction of nature means the extinction of the human race" this special

campaign created by Paiva Netto at the LGW propagates by various means, among them thematic forums, musical clips, parades, educational and cultural programs, debates, besides documentaries put together in partnership with experts on the issue.

Another impacting strategy is the Solidary Society Network that mobilizes hundreds of civil society organizations, the academia, private sector, the media and government to share information and take joint action in the promotion of Human Rights and sustainability. In March 2008, under the guidance of the NGO Section of the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs, the Legion of Good Will organized for the 5th consecutive year the Latin American Civil Society Forum. The conferences took place in the cities of Rio de Janeiro, Belo Horizonte, Brasília, São Paulo, Salvador, Porto Alegre and Manaus, in addition to Buenos Aires, Argentina. The event was widely covered by the Brazilian and Hispanic press.

Conservation of energy and water resources, climate change, environmental education, management of solid waste and health were topics discussed according to local peculiarities. Considering the wealth resources of the Amazon rainforest and the role it plays for the sustainable development of the Planet, the present report will emphasize innovative practices presented at the Manaus conference on forest protection and management.

LESSONS LEARNED FROM THE FOREST

The Amazon Region holds in its territory approximately 33% of the rainforests still existing in the world, and 12% of all superficial fresh water on the Planet — natural resources that determine the strategic position of this region in the 21st century.

Covering over 5.2 million square kilometers, the Brazilian portion of the Amazon Region also stands out for its under soil mineral wealth — its geodiversity — as well as for its history built and kept by the populations of the forest and of the waters. Brazilian Amazon population exceeds 23 million people and is scattered along river banks or consolidated at urban centers, such as Manaus, Amazonas State; Belém, Pará State; and Porto Velho, Rondônia State.

The rainforest, in terms of Amazonian diversity, is the provider for major environmental services. These services include not only the use of wood and non-wood resources, such as rubber, nuts, oils and essences, medicinal herbs, but also the conservation of such biodiversity through carbon storage in trees and by the balance of weather conditions and water cycles locally, regionally, and globally.

It is crucial that public policies are promoted to value the standing rainforest rather than the logged one. For that purpose, a number of laws have been enacted in Brazil in recent years both at federal and state levels aiming at reducing logging activities.

An additional major result from the combination of regional development and environmental preservation is the Manaus Free Trade Zone[1], a model for economic development implemented by the Brazilian Government on Western Amazon (Acre, Amazonas, Rondônia and Roraima States, as well as urban centers Macapá and Santana, in Amapá State). Such model, based on fiscal and technological incentives, has the Manaus Industrial Center (PIM) as its mainstay, with its 450 high-tech companies, over half a million jobs — direct or indirect — and over 25 billion dollars billing in 2007.

Scenarios of PIM sustainable development programs are demonstrated by changes in energy matrix (by the use of natural gas) and results from ongoing projects at Amazon Biotechnology Center as of 2006 as part of the Molecular Ecology Brazilian Program for the Sustainable Use of Amazon Biodiversity to qualify our biodiversity-based production processes — the bioindustry (cosmetics, drugs, and food products, among others). To offer local populations the opportunity to work and to live on industrial projects, with special focus on those associated to the sustainable use of natural resources has been a relevant tool to preserve the rainforest.

However, data from the United Nations Development Program portray the Amazon contrast: natural wealth and one of the lowest levels in the human development index. Naturally, one of the drivers to logging is poverty. The National Institute for Space Research shows a 16% loss of forest coverage in Legal Amazon.

The lack of economic opportunities in Amazonian rural areas also drives migration flows to major urban centers (rural exodus), thus leading to crowded towns and cities, inadequate space use, and loss in environmental quality standard. The result is the occupation of banks and beds of *igarapés* (waterways); *igarapés* that are polluted and obstructed; the destruction of ciliary vegetation; and the absence of basic infrastructure for sanitation.

Some actions are illustrative of the challenge faced by Amazon towns and villages in their search for sustainable urban development. The Social and Environmental Program for the Manaus' *Igarapés*[2] consists of urbanization proposals through the revitalization of urban river basins, integrating sanitation, dredging, and the rational use of soil on the banks of the *igarapés* with the construction of popular housing projects and leisure areas. The project integrates a partnership between Amazon State Government and the Inter-American Development Bank.

The Urban Ecological Corridors Project[3] developed by Manaus Municipality aims at protecting the remaining ciliary vegetation along the *igarapés* that flow through the city. The Mindu Ecological Corridor Project integrates two Conservation Units: the Mindu

[1] Sources: www.suframa.gov.br and www.fieam.org.br
[2] Information at: www.seinf.am.gov.br
[3] Additional information at: www.manaus.am.gov.br

Municipal Park and the Honda Private Reserve of Natural Patrimony, on the Eastern, Northern and Central-Southern zones. Its implementation aims at: regulating soil use and occupation along the Corridor protection zones; safeguard existing vegetation coverage and the recovery and maintenance of fauna and flora; contribute for the improvement of surrounding microclimate; stimulate ecotourism in Manaus; and raise local population's awareness for ecology and conservation.

In the Brazilian Amazon Forest the actions carried out by research institutes as well as research financing agencies and educational institutions have yielded major results to human resources qualification, to the feasibility of scientific research, as well as the production of knowledge and technology for the region. A wide number of products and processes developed by researchers of the National Institute for Research in the Amazon[4] now have a patent and are being used in Brazil, Australia, New Zealand, in some African countries and China. Among them, some should be pointed out: the technology for fish production in small water channels; *piranha* dehydrated soup; fish flour; *pupunha* palm flour; granola; furniture built with *pupunha* wood; solar drier for wood and natural products; oils and essences used to treat cancer, HIV and for the diagnosis of Leishimaniasis; besides shoes, purses and clothing made of fish and reptile skin.

The legacy of forest and water populations is a heritage to be identified through a number of actions and participating institutions, as occurred at the LGW's 2nd Forum — Solidary Society Network Innovation Fair.

The booths and the decoration of the fair were made out of recycled materials by the Project "Recycling to prevent polluting"[5], developed by a group of educators and artisans that live in needy communities in the Eastern region of Manaus.

Activities carried out by the Amazonian Studies Center and the Water and Environment Committee[6] that are part of a network of organizations involved in developing educational and cultural projects to stimulate environmental and social responsibility, as well as the work developed by the Brazilian Court specialized on Environment, the Civil Court for Environment and Agrarian Issues[7], linked to the Amazonas Judiciary Power, are major sites of participation for an integrated analysis of environmental issues.

The challenge of sustainable development in the Amazon lies on the construction of a broad participation of the Amazon natives, sharing their valuable stories in the chapters that we want to write for the future of humanity.

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[4] Additional information at: www.inpa.gov.br

[5] E-mail for contact: projeto.reciclar@gmail.com

[6] Additional information : http://portalamazonia.com.br

[7] E-mail for contact: vemaqa@tj.am.gov.br

CONCLUSION

Therefore, to protect the Amazon demands investment in education, science and technology. The results of these investments in producing Amazon knowledge will guarantee its territorial sovereignty by an ecological consciousness revealed in actions in all sectors of society. In this process, not only the role of the Government of Brazil but also of the civil society and particularly the NGOs, are of extreme importance. In this context, the work of the Legion of Good Will consists mainly in the field of education and reeducation with ecumenical spirituality, strengthening the foundation of a new collective consciousness that begins in the transformation of the individual.

In his article "Eight Millennium Goals", published in the magazine Globalization of Fraternal Love, the President of the LGW highlighted a remarkable extract from the Preamble of the Constitution of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization: "Since wars begin in the minds of men, it is in the minds of men that defenses of Peace must be constructed". And Paiva Netto still adds: "It is necessary to point out the proposals of real understanding; another path for the peoples will be that of bitter remedy (...) There are multiple issues, but this one is extremely serious: we are breathing death. We are facing a type of progress that at the same time spreads ruin — Our own ruin. To clean up any urban or rural area should be part of a courageous platform of actions of politicians who really love that area. One cannot expect that to happen only when it becomes a profitable subject. Nothing can be more rewarding than to take care of the citizen, the Capital of God".

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Statement submitted by People's Decade of Human Rights Education, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council

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* E/2008/100.

08-36315 (E) 110608

Statement

The development of human rights cities towards sustainable development

What is a human rights city? It a microcosm of a state where the entire populace and its institutions, a complex social, economic political entity, create a local steering committee whose members represent all concerns of the city, They join to learn about human rights as relevant to the wide spectrum of sustainable development. They generate learning programs and dialogue that lead to evaluating the short and long term development of their city, guided by the holistic human rights framework.

In the Human Rights City the community works to improve equality, non discrimination. They work to build a society that respects and helps women and men realize their human rights. In the neighborhoods they map violations vs. the realizations, designing plans for a creative, caring society.
These activities result in a viable process of critical thinking and systemic analysis that leads to equal and meaningful participation in the decisions that determine their lives as they construct a viable model for sustainable development. Plans include the eradication of poverty, unemployment, and inequitable social conditions. These activities are carried out by women and men of all ages and origins, minorities, migrants, disabled and indigenous people and more. They learn to live in trust and respect, to belong in dignity in community with others. The integration of social and economic development, include environmental conservation and protection.

Through the process of learning and dialogue people consciously internalized the holistic vision of human rights to overcome fear and want. Such a city provides safe places to all within its boarders, women and men alike. The process aims to assure human security, adequate food and nutrition, housing; education directed to the full development of the human being, healthcare; clean water and sanitation, and work at livable wages. Resources are shared with all citizens-- not as a gift, but as a realization of human right—as they join in developing a new political culture based on human rights, with integrity and social responsibility, each becoming a mentor and a monitor.

The premise that leads to developing human rights cities for people to achieve sustainable development is the wisdom imbedded in the comprehensive human rights framework. Since 1948, this framework has been carefully and inclusively articulated by individuals, groups and nations. They have recognized the profundity of humanity's hopes and expectations nourished by women, men, youth and children throughout human history. There is no other option but human rights for genuine sustainable development.

In summation it is important to note that beyond the creative work in the human rights cities, the holistic vision and practical mission of human rights, is hardly known to most people around the world. Responding to this need the General Assembly had approved resolution 62/171, introduced by Benin, for 2009 to be an International Year of Human Rights Leaning—this will enrich all efforts towards sustainable development worldwide.

There are now 20 human rights cities around the world being facilitated by PDHRE.

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Statement submitted by Droit à l'énergie-SOS futur, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 36 and 37 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* E/2008/100.

08-37501 (E) 180608 180608

Statement

Summary of committee decisions

The committee of the international association Droit à l'énergie, meeting in Santiago de Compostela, Spain, on 12 May 2008:

- Condemns speculation in basic commodities, particularly energy products. The rising price of fuels, including biofuels, threatens millions of people living in the countries of the South. While citizens the world over protest against the increasingly unaffordable price of petrol and the destabilizing effect of heating costs on entire households, those living in the countries of the South, particularly in sub-Saharan Africa, East Africa and South-East Asia, are threatened by food insecurity and the spread of diseases resulting from the lack of safe drinking water and energy.
- Urges all global, regional and national actors, in particular the United Nations and its specialized agencies, the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank, the European Union, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, the Group of Eight (G8) and others, to take concerted action and do everything in their power to stop speculation, regulate markets and ensure that people can feed themselves and live in decent conditions.
- Demands that humanitarian actors, both public and private (World Food Programme, non-governmental organizations, among others), should have the necessary resources to fulfil their mandates.
- Calls for economic partnership agreements to be replaced with development partnership agreements, which are the only way for the countries in question to begin to achieve economic and social empowerment.
- Calls on France, which will assume the Presidency of the European Union on 1 July 2008, to take all necessary measures, in conjunction with its partners, to resolve this situation which threatens the whole of humanity.

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Development Cooperation Forum

Statement submitted by Foundation for Research on Technology Migration and Integration, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 30 and 31 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* E/2008/100.

08-37508 (E) 190608

Statement

Assessing, measuring and demonstrating the overall impact of programs designed to alleviate poverty is becoming an increasingly formidable task.

Development programs aimed at strengthening the respect for human rights, reducing poverty, and improving health, education, standards of living and physical security around the world are an essential part of global progress. Yet it is deeply disappointing to recognize that very little is known about the net impact of most of these programs, mostly when you consider the amount of money development agencies, developing country governments and NGOs have disbursed in the last decades.

Addressing this gap, and systematically building evidence about what works in development, would make it possible to improve the effectiveness of development assistance by bringing vital knowledge into the service of policymaking and program design aimed at stimulating social and economic development in low- and middle-income countries. That is why many governments and organizations are taking initiatives to improve the evidence base in development policy.

Although many initiatives today are effectively generating and expanding impact evaluations, so producing good evidence on certain questions, investment is still insufficient when you consider the demand and the overall quality of evaluation studies.

UN agencies, multilateral development banks, and developing country governments finance evaluations useful for monitoring and operational assessments, but the kinds of studies needed to judge which interventions work under given conditions, what difference they make, and at what cost, are really underbudgeted. Even when commissioned, impact evaluations frequently fail to yield useful information because of the use of not rigorous methods or data.

The scenario is now getting more and more complex due to the rapidly changing global aid architecture. Nearly a third of official development assistance now flows through partnership-based global and regional programs — especially philanthropic initiatives — whose goals are set at the global level, rather than through the country-focused programs of assistance that have been the mainstay of traditional aid donors.

The increasing number of stakeholders involved in development programs asks for new evaluation methodologies. Normal data collection and evaluation tasks related to monitoring inputs, improving operations, and assessing performance, these are activities governments and international agencies may do well; but what they fail in is building knowledge which requires studies that fall outside normal budget and planning cycles and for which incentives are sorely lacking.

The knowledge we are referring to concerns the net impact of a program or intervention on conditions that the program sought to alter. Acquiring this

knowledge typically demands studies that are different from typical program monitoring or process evaluations. It requires impact studies, meaning studies that document whether particular programs are actually responsible for improvements in social outcomes relative to what would have happened without them.

Today, concern about the above-mentioned evaluation gap is widespread, as demonstrated by the many initiatives under way from public agencies, intergovernmental commissions, NGO networks, research centres, and foundations:

- the efficacy of spending is one of the main issue of developing country governments' information gathering;
- NGOs are more and more interested in evaluating the impact of their programs. Since the identification of what works and what does not is considered as vital for both better programs and more effective fundraising, they have started collaborations with leading academic institutions;
- donor countries are increasingly concerned that international financial assistance should generate results.

FORMIT Foundation — through its subsidiary FORMIT Servizi — has been dealing for years now with evaluation and monitoring to ensure quality of ICT projects presented by third parties for Public Administration. However monitoring, supervision of projects and evaluation of results are just means for us to reach the real objective: making it possible for information systems to become the main instrument enhancing the *effectiveness* of operation of public administration in terms of better organisation of work, more *effective* service provided for citizens, extension of the range of provided services.

FORMIT, in fact, uses evaluation as a management tool to meet program goals, to improve program *effectiveness* and to develop innovative methodologies to measure the impact of public investment.

The same approach has to be used in the framework of international cooperation where there is a real need for governments and agencies to reinforce efforts to generate and apply knowledge from impact evaluations of development programs.

This can be done through:

- strengthening overall monitoring and evaluation systems;
- improving resources assigned to impact evaluation;
- stimulating collaboration between the various actors of aid (i.e. policymakers, project managers, and evaluation experts);
- improving standards for evidence;
- facilitating access to knowledge; and

- building capacity in developing countries to conduct rigorous evaluations.

FORMIT strongly believes progress will be slow and investment insufficient without greater effort and this effort cannot be but collective. We are moving ahead to a new era of partnership and a pooled approach involving the participation of multiple stakeholders to reduce the evaluation gap could be more effective than independent actions by individual countries and agencies.

The Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat could coordinate the proposed multi-stakeholder partnerships for clustering studies around common themes and across different contexts, ensuring the reliability/validity of these studies, registering and disseminating studies, and building research capacity in developing countries, including the setting up of an ad-hoc voluntary membership group supported by FORMIT in the role of a catalyst to monitor the management of evaluation activities to improve decision-making at all levels.

This seems to be a really *effective* way to strengthen the achievements made since the last Triennial Comprehensive Policy Review and to build on recent progress on the "Delivering as one" plan at the country level.

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Statement submitted by International Union of Economists, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 30 and 31 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* E/2008/100.

08-39702 (E) 030708

Statement

Ways of ensuring global energy security

Mankind has at its disposal enough intellectual, material, technological and natural resources to cope with the arising threats. But we have to realize that the brewing crisis can be solved spontaneously, as a consequence of severe socio-economic disturbances, or in a soft form, as a result of coordinated actions aimed at ensuring the global stability and energy security. The latter will require working out and consistently implementing on the inter-state level an anti-crisis energy policy supported by business and population.

The task of selecting the strategic directions cannot be strictly formalized so far, and is being solved by the experts by applying models and other instruments for evaluating certain aspects of the strategy. Currently, research is under way on the following strategic directions of increasing the energy security: economical and ecologically responsible use of energy; accelerated growth of supply of the commercially efficient energy resources; diversification of the kinds of energy; creating the infrastructure of the global energy market; decentralizing the energy supply.

Each of these directions will require for their realization the powerful technological advances and significant change in the existing structure of the global energy industry, ways of organization and rules of the energy markets functioning.

Economic and ecologically responsible use of energy. This could lift practically all the threats to the global energy security (except terrorism). This strategy includes first of all the organizational technological energy supply, i.e. reducing the loss of energy on all the stages of its transformation – from the primary sources to the final use for production and household needs. Measures aimed at economical and ecologically responsible use of energy should be based on the consistent policy of ensuring the energy efficiency with the application of the price, taxation and other mechanisms of promoting the measures.

This strategy envisages utilization of all kinds of material resources used in production and household and energy-saving way of life, which means moderate growth in the developed countries of the most energy-consuming living demands of the people (food, housing, transport). Such a change in the way of life seems to be the most effective but the most difficult for realization of that strategy.

Being the leaders of the technological progress, the industrially developed countries must significantly step up the international activities aimed at increasing the energy efficiency. Alongside with the intensification of the transfer of modern technologies, harmonization of the energy consumption standards, coordination of the energy marking of the products, etc. also should be noted. These measures are to be implemented by the global information campaign in the sphere of energy efficiency using the mass media for the advertising the energy-saving way of life.

Accelerated growth of supply of the commercially efficient energy resources. This is an effective means of countering such threats to the global energy security as the obvious backlog of the energy supply from the growing energy consumption, growing stress in meeting the energy demand for transport and growing regional energy disproportions. The major problem consists in creating preconditions for extracting energy resources rather than in their physical deficit.

Besides mobilizing investments for the successful realization of this strategy it is necessary to maintain on all levels, including the international one, the development and commercialization of technologies capable of expanding the supply of energy resources with the reduction of time and cost of their development. Here are the main ones:

Technologies for the advance preparation of the hydrocarbon deposits (including, if necessary, non-traditional sources), *the relevant capacities and infrastructure for extracting and processing.*

Technologies of nuclear energy industry with reactors on thermal neutrons and transfer to the closed nuclear fuel cycle. Development of the nuclear energy industry on the basis of the more sophisticated types of thermal reactors will increase the energy supply and will become the transit form from the present hydrocarbon to the future large-scale nuclear energy industry, with the fast neutron reactors, closed fuel cycle and utilizing the nuclear fuel wastes. This will make the nuclear energy industry the practically renewable source of energy, ensure non-proliferation of nuclear weapons, minimize the radioactive wastes and optimize the economy of the industry. The necessary condition for the large-scale development of the nuclear energy industry is realization of the nuclear cycle when the consumer of final products (electric power, heat, drinking water or hydrogen) is not restricted with international limitations on using the critical nuclear materials and technologies.

Commercially efficient technologies of using ecologically safe renewable sources of energy (biomass, solar and wind energy, etc.). Their development will not only expand the energy supply but bring down the ecological stress as well.

The industrial development of the thermal nuclear energy.

Diversification of the kinds of energy. This is necessary on all the stages of its transformation both for attaining the general stability of energy supply and for relieving the stress in oil supply and regional energy disproportions.

There are a few directions within this strategy.

1. Increased consumption of natural gas.
2. Supporting ecologically pure technologies of using coal.
3. Accelerated development of atomic energy industry and renewable energy sources.
4. Substitution of the oil motor fuels at the transport.
5. Development of the systems of switching to the alternative kinds of fuel.

Development of the infrastructure of the global energy market. This suggests gradual formation of inter-state, inter-continental and trans-continental energy corporations: the electric power and gas ones and their symbioses. Such an infrastructure should operate according to unified technological standards and management rules.

Within the integrated systems the diversification of supply and demand of the energy resources (including their importing and exporting) will grow while the degree of concentration of the market will go down. Integration will significantly strengthen the long-term energy security, open up the access to the competitive sources of fuel and increase the reliability of the systems, which is crucial for countering the threats of the growing regional energy disproportions and disruptions in energy supply. Significant organizational efforts and expenses on realization of this direction will pay back within the acceptable period of time due to reductions in costs and risks of energy supplies.

The priority tasks in establishing the global energy market are:

- creating the infrastructure of the global natural gas market by advance growth of capacities for production, transporting and using condensed natural gas;
- construction of the inter-continental gas pipe lines;
- formation of the uniform standards and the system of technological control of the gas transporting modes aimed at increasing their stability and reliability.

In order to cope with the short-time disruptions in energy supply it is necessary to have the global system of fuel reserves. It has to include:

- storages of oil and oil products in the regions of their concentrated consumption ensuring the compensation of seasonal irregularity of demand and supply in case of emergency situations;

- storages of condensed and natural gas for seasonal regulation;
- storages of different kinds of hard fuel on the power stations of seasonal regulation;
- means of managing the reserves (including changes in power stations loading when using different kinds of energy resources), which are expected to efficiently compensate the emergency disruptions and the weather fluctuations of energy resources supply and to reduce the fuel price fluctuations in the regions and in the world as a whole.

Decentralization of the energy supply. This, in the form of local and individual energy sources working on stored energy resources, can the most efficiently counter the disruptions in energy supply as a result of technogenic catastrophes and systemic disasters. Besides, the decentralized energy industry can make a significant contribution in fighting the energy scarcity and regional disproportions in the development of energy industry.

Establishing inter-state and trans-continental energy corporations with the simultaneous advanced development of the local and individual energy sources will ensure the operational reliability, viability and stability of the world energy industry.

The great role in the realization of the strategy of decentralization of the energy supply has to be played by the increased efficiency of the local and individual energy sources and by the development of the technologies of distributed energy generation including the automatic micro- and mini-electric power stations combined with the heat generators or air-conditioners capable of operating on different kinds of fuel with the efficiency coefficient of up to 70%, solar and wind electric power generators with accumulators functioning independently of the energy systems, smaller hydro- and geo-thermal power stations.

Ensuring the global energy security seems to be impossible without the dialogue and mutual openness on the level of states, businesses and population. The important mission belongs to science and technology. The whole number of research directions and pilot projects should receive a priority and international support. It is time for the governments to pay attention at the insufficient financing of scientific and practical projects in the sphere of energy and to create stimuli for accelerating them while promoting partnership with private companies.

The most difficult for the public opinion should be admitting the necessity to limit (first of all for the population of the developed countries) the existing largely energy-wasting way of life. As soon as the level of living standards of the present "golden billion" will in a couple of decades be reached by three more billions of people living in Brazil, the Russian Federation, India and China, the current level of energy consumption will make the pressure on the world energy industry unbearable with any real pace of the scientific and technological progress.

In its turn, the development of technologies puts forward difficult problems before the society. Admission of necessity to create the large-scale atomic energy industry is inevitable. Many of the habits of the personal energy consumption – from filling the car fuel tank (hybrid engines, using methanol, compressed and condensed gas and subsequently hydrogen) to the individual energy supply of houses and smaller businesses will have to be changed. The change of paradigm of the energy development is impossible without solving the complicated scientific and technological tasks and spending huge material resources. All this will require greater openness and free flow of information, technologies and capitals.

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Statement submitted by Goi Peace Foundation, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 30 and 31 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* E/2008/100.

08-40033 (E) 030708

Statement

1. Raising the Awareness for Social Entrepreneurship

The Goi Peace Foundation would like to highlight the role of social entrepreneurs and the significance of promoting the global movement of social entrepreneurship, in light of the theme "Implementing the internationally agreed goals and commitments in regard to sustainable development."

First, by way of introduction, the Goi Peace Foundation is an international non-governmental organization headquartered in Tokyo, Japan. In 2004, the Foundation was admitted to special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations.

In an effort to contribute to the fundamental and sustainable solution of the various global problems and development challenges, the Goi Peace Foundation builds the social environment in which economic prosperity, social justice, environmental sustainability, respect of human rights, and good governance may be nurtured and ensured. It pursues its objectives through lectures, symposia and conferences, research and studies, culture of peace events, international cooperation activities, peace education programs, as well as publications and media projects.

One of the major programs of the Foundation is the Goi Peace Award. The annual award is presented to honor individuals and organizations in various fields that have made outstanding contributions toward the realization of a peaceful and harmonious world for all life on earth.

In 2007, the Goi Peace Award was bestowed on Bill Drayton, Founder and Chair of Ashoka: Innovators for the Public—a global association of over 2000 leading social entrepreneurs, individuals who envision and implement pattern-setting social changes in the environment, education, health, human rights and other areas of human need. The Award was presented to Mr. Drayton in recognition of his visionary leadership in developing a sustainable global society by promoting social entrepreneurship and empowering individuals to become changemakers. Through his dedicated and pioneering work with Ashoka, Mr. Drayton has paved the way for a truly innovative citizen sector to emerge in the 21st century.

2. Social Entrepreneurship – A Key to Sustainable Development

According to Bill Drayton, social entrepreneurs are individuals with innovative solutions to society's most pressing social problems. They tackle major social issues offering new ideas for wide-scale change. Just as entrepreneurs change the face of business, social entrepreneurs act as the change agents for society. These solution-minded pragmatists invent new approaches that create social value, and develop innovative solutions to improve societies for the better. They establish new ventures to deliver goods and services not currently supplied by existing markets. They operate across a spectrum of enterprises, from the purely charitable to the purely commercial, and they prioritize social returns on investment.

Social entrepreneurs are not a new phenomenon and social entrepreneurship is not a new concept, but nowadays, they have gained renewed momentum in a world characterized by a growing divide between the haves and the have-nots. The delivery of social, environmental and ethical value using market-based techniques has a very long history, where innovative individuals have introduced solutions to seemingly intractable social problems, fundamentally improving the lives of countless individuals by changing the way critical systems operate. Florence Nightingale (founder of the first nursing school and developer of modern nursing practices), and Maria Montessori (best known for her method of education of children in use today in a number of public as well as private schools throughout the world), or John Muir (naturalist and conservationist, who established the National Park System and helped found the Sierra Club) offer some prominent historical examples of social entrepreneurs.

One well-known contemporary social entrepreneur is the 2006 Nobel Prize-winner Muhammad Yunus, founder of the Grameen Bank and its growing family of social venture businesses. Muhammad Yunus pilot tested and scaled a new business model to provide microcredit to the world's poorest citizens. His ideas couple capitalism with social responsibility and have changed the face of rural economic and social development. The success of the Grameen model of microfinancing has inspired similar efforts in a hundred countries throughout the developing world and industrialized countries as well. The work of Muhammed Yunus and of the Grameen movement illustrates the enormous synergies and benefits that could be achieved when business principles are unified with social ventures.

Another example of how social entrepreneurship is emerging in diverse areas, consider Victoria Hale and her enterprise OneWorldHealth. Dr. Hale, a pharmaceutical scientist, who launched the world's first non-profit pharmaceutical company, is developing safe, effective and affordable medical solutions in the developing world for people who suffer from infectious diseases but are unserved by mainstream firms.

Or Rory Stewart and his Turquoise Mountain Foundation, which revives ancient Afghan crafts and rebuilds the historic bazaar in Kabul, in order to help preserve the local culture and provide employment and vital income to the people in the region.

Today, social entrepreneurs are working in more than one hundred countries to create opportunity for people who otherwise would stay in poverty and continue facing deprivation. They and their fields of work are as varied as the communities they aim to serve.

At the beginning of the 21st century, the social entrepreneurship movement increasingly gains public visibility and recognition worldwide. New partnerships have been established between social entrepreneurs and the business sector. In particular, the 'New Economy' era spawned new forms of philanthropy, the so-called 'venture philanthropy'. It is indeed not a coincidence that massive support for social entrepreneurs is now coming from wealthy individuals like Bill Gates, Warren Buffet, George Soros, Stephan Schmidheiny, as well as Jeff Skoll. The involvement of these well-connected and highly strategic social investors has

the potential to make a remarkable difference. They have created powerful organizations to identify and support social entrepreneurs around the world.

The involvement of some of the most influential and wealthy people on the planet has played a decisive role. There is an increasingly urgent sense that a new wave of creativity, innovation and entrepreneurial solutions is needed to meet the challenges of reducing poverty, improving environmental stewardship, and boosting social and economic development for all people on the planet. And it is this that leads us to believe that the social entrepreneurship movement can be seen as a massively crucial catalyst for sustainable development.

3. Promoting an International Year for Social Entrepreneurship

The Goi Peace Foundation believes that social entrepreneurs are essential to the restoration of a sustainable planet and the improvement of the lives of billions of people, especially of the lives of 900 million people living in extreme poverty.

The Goi Peace Foundation believes that social entrepreneurs deserve further recognition and support by the international community—by governments as well as multinational companies. Furthermore, the establishment of a strong global partnership between governments, social entrepreneurs and the private sector at the national and international level can be of great benefit to all humanity, especially in promoting sustainable development and implementing the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

The Goi Peace Foundation believes that multilateral institutions like the United Nations can play a pivotal role in offering a platform for such a global partnership between governments, the private sector, social entrepreneurs and related foundations, creating synergy and maximizing effectiveness of the combined forces.

As an initial step towards furthering the global movement of social entrepreneurship, the Goi Peace Foundation recommends the designation of an International Year for Social Entrepreneurship by the United Nations General Assembly.

The main objectives of the International Year for Social Entrepreneurship would be:

1. To raise public awareness and understanding of social entrepreneurship as a viable approach to achieving sustainable development and the Millennium Development Goals, and as a potential solution to eradicating poverty.
2. To foster new and strategic partnerships between governments, multilateral organizations, social entrepreneurial NGOs and foundations, as well as companies and finance institutions in their shared interest to provide adequate services for the needy.
3. To encourage UN Member States to create national committees and focal points to commemorate the Year and implement national activities to promote social entrepreneurship.

4. To encourage finance institutions, investors and companies to more active engagement in social entrepreneurship.
5. To exchange best practices and innovative approaches to solving major social problems.
6. To expand the outreach and success of social entrepreneurship, in order to involve a greater number of people in the process of sustainable development.

To play our part, the Goi Peace Foundation, in cooperation with the Munich-based Earthrise Society—a newly established enterprise dedicated to advance social entrepreneurship and new innovative business models—intends to establish the International Alliance for Social Entrepreneurship. The aim of the Alliance is to strengthen the global social entrepreneurship movement and to harness partnerships between governments, multilateral institutions, social entrepreneurs and the corporate world. Also in this connection, creation of a Global Fund for Social Entrepreneurship is being planned to support the awareness-raising programs for social entrepreneurship, including promotional campaigns to launch an International Year for Social Entrepreneurship.

The Goi Peace Foundation is thus committed to raising the awareness for social entrepreneurship, and thereby, to the advancement of sustainable development and welfare of the human family.

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Annual ministerial review: implementing the internationally agreed goals and commitments in regard to sustainable development

Statement submitted by International Movement ATD Fourth World, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 30 and 31 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

08-40774 (E) 110708

Statement

The international community continues to reaffirm its commitment to sustainable development, yet for hundreds of millions of people in extreme poverty, the benefits of sustainable development remain elusive. By reaching out and harnessing the daily efforts of people in the Antohomadinika and Ikopa districts and people recycling on refuse dumps in Antananarivo, Madagascar, the **International Movement ATD Fourth World**[1] is creating a dynamic with Madagascan society which respects the core values of sustainable development — development that respects the environment while promoting sustainable "human" development, decent work and dignity. In this complex equation, an improvement in the lives and opportunities for the most excluded people is a key indicator of development that is environmentally, socially and ethically sustainable.

Vocational and educational development projects have difficulties in reaching people living in extreme poverty who endure multiple difficulties (severe financial constraints, education, employment, health, housing, etc). These barriers have a mutually reinforcing impact and their duration over time severely compromises people's chances of regaining their rights and of reassuming their responsibilities by themselves in the foreseeable future.[2] Approaches that may be effective in helping people in poverty often do not work for the poorest and most excluded. A relationship of mutual trust and understanding must be developed between people in extreme poverty and the institutions and individuals trying to support them.

Conditions are trying for the informal sector workers in Antohomadinika district who undertake a wide range of activities such as selling, recuperation and transporting. Conditions are also very difficult for refuse workers in Antananarivo refuse dumps. Due to a lack of possibilities elsewhere, stigma and the fear of losing the small earnings that the refuse dump ensures, the barriers to accessing other opportunities are high for the refuse workers. The people with whom ATD Fourth World interacts are therefore diverse, each one willing to contribute their skills and knowledge to creating a project to strengthen and harness existing efforts made. The idea to start putting some conditions in place to facilitate this came to light.

Miasa Mianatra Miaraka

In 2005 some informal sector workers mainly from the Antohomadinika district started to share their skills in crocheting, embroidery and hair cutting. Raw materials were donated and in 2006 a workspace was rented and the possibility of a cooperative looked into. ***Miasa Mianatra Miaraka*** (Working and Learning Together) is a pilot project based on two key objectives. The first is to enable people living in very disadvantaged areas to access technology, vocational training and to create decent work using their traditional skills and know-how. The second is a research component, with support of the World Bank, to learn with the participants what is needed to achieve the goals of decent work and sustainable development. Key to this project is assuring that the poorest and most excluded people are supported to participate in the project and contribute to its development and ongoing evaluation. Key partners are Alcatel-Lucent, a major international telecommunication firm; Data Telecom Service (DTS), Madagascar's leading Internet service provider; as well as national civil society organisations (such as Enda-Indien Oceans "Espace Jeunes" community centre, NRJ-Nouveau Relais des

[1] International NGO in general consultative status with the Economic and Social Council that has no religious or political affiliation and engages with individuals and institutions in over 30 countries, "north" and "south", to find solutions to tackle extreme poverty in partnership with people in poverty themselves.

[2] Based on the definition first defined in "Chronic Poverty and Lack of Basic Security", Wresinski report to the Economic and Social Council of France, February 1987.

Jeunes etc). The project also works in partnership with the local and national administration as a key component of national ownership.

Craft cooperative

A craft cooperative was established with adults producing products for the home market (peanut oil, wooden furniture, woven burial shrouds, etc.). Some 22 craftsmen and women are currently employed in the cooperative. One of the women working in the cooperative said that she would get herself out of extreme poverty, that she was different now, and that her life had changed. Another worker recounted his pride in leaving home in the morning and going to the cooperative, saying that he was seen differently.

Computer discovery and training

A sixteen-year-old participant in the computer project said that she used to think she would spend her life at the refuse dump, but that's not what she wanted to do. So she was working hard to learn.

Alcatel and Data Telecom Service (DTS) provided an antenna and Internet access for two years to support the establishment of a computer workshop, which is closely linked to the cooperative. Around one hundred young people will be trained over 2-3 years, and will take on the task of sharing their knowledge with other young people. Young adults who are new to literacy are helping the trainers to design a CD-rom to teach literacy in the Malagasy language. The first training cycle began in November 2006 with 16 youths. A specific research focus is on the conditions needed to enable young people to have successful literacy and computer training, and to eventually find job opportunities in the field of new technologies. The person responsible for the workshop works closely with each young person in the project, and takes into account the reality of his or her everyday lives. In order to support some of the youths who sort refuse at night, a small stipend was offered to them to enable their continued participation.

Continual learning and evolution in the cooperative

The establishment of this project is the first step on a long journey, and the daily functioning of the cooperative regularly poses new challenges. Difficulties arise such as absenteeism (between 7-11 percent due to adverse weather conditions, health etc), the different productivity levels of the workers, the quality of the finished products, and the general establishment of working relations. It is important to maintain an open dialogue around the questions of fairness and equality of pay that arise as some participants learn to work better and more quickly than others. Respect and acceptance of those who progress more slowly contributes to creating a more positive and productive atmosphere for everyone. Tackling these challenges requires a permanent dialogue between workers, support staff and other partners to develop a "social contract" for the cooperative, which all members can sign up to and be part of.

Some conclusions and challenges ahead

- It is essential from the outset to have the clear ambition of reaching and being open to the poorest and most excluded people to ensure their continual participation. This is a key ingredient of best practice based on truly inclusive and supportive decent work opportunities.
- Education and training are not sufficient to help the most excluded people to earn a decent wage. A wider, supportive environment is necessary. Development projects and policies should mix social, environmental and economics goals to tackle extreme poverty on the long term and in partnership with the local population, authorities and private sector partners.

- Informal sector workers are productive and demonstrate ingenuity as true contributors to sustainable development. The cooperative is a way to unite their strengths and gain greater credibility, yet the dynamism and efforts of those outside of the cooperative who continue in the informal sector should continue to be valued and supported. Efforts should be encouraged to value the economic and social contributions of those in the informal sector, and to include them fairly and appropriately in social policy initiatives and projects.

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Statement submitted by Fundación Diagrama, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 30 and 31 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

08-40780 (E) 110708

Statement

Innovation Fair Conference for Latin America
"Youth: the core of sustainable development"

Fundación Diagrama together with the Ministry of Culture and Youth, and ILANUD organized the Conference "Youth at the core of sustainable development". Held on 18 and 19 June in San Jose, Costa Rica, with the aim of encouraging innovation in the development of national and international strategies to tackle the specific issues that young people face in relation to sustainable development.

1. Fundación Diagrama has consultative status with the Economic and Social Council. Its main objective is to promote the development of centres, programmes and research aimed at protection, delinquency prevention, and integration of minors and young people in social difficulty, and to make public opinion and social agents aware of the problems of this sector of the population.

2. Fundación Diagrama's international approach has always been guided by the Convention on the Rights of the Child, in particular articles 37 and 40 thereof, and other relevant United Nations standards and norms.[1] The International Conference "Youth At the Core of Sustainable Development" took place at the initiative of a number of different institutions from the public and not for profit sectors. Its purpose was to focus on the importance of the role of minors and young people in societal development. The main conclusions of this recent event can be summarised in the two following principles:

- The importance of young people's participation and empowerment in sustainable development
- The need to promote good governance among young people

3. We would like to recall that Latin American Youth is a distinct and vulnerable segment of the population, uniquely affected by environmental, social and economic problems, with a particular need for protection; and at the same time, it is a valuable resource to promote and implement sustainable development.

4. We also recognise that the international community has already taken action by adopting programmes, projects and networks, including of national organizations and non-governmental youth organizations, to encourage the involvement of youth in sustainable development, in accordance with chapter 25 of Agenda 21 adopted by United Nations Conference on Environment and Development.

5. We welcome the recent entrance into force of the Iberoamerican Convention on Youth Rights adopted in 2005, which explicitly recognises social, economic and cultural rights, and the right to live in a sound environment, as a crucial basis for young people's development (chapter III).

6. We would also like to highlight the intensive and comprehensive work accomplished under the framework of the United Nations Commission on sustainable development in different regions, and in particular the activities related to sustainable production and consumption, water management and sanitation.

[1] Including, amongst others: the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Administration of Juvenile Justice (the Beijing Rules), the United Nations Rules for the Protection of Juveniles Deprived of their Liberty (JDLs) and the United Nations Guidelines for the Prevention of Juvenile Delinquency (the Riyadh Guidelines).

7. Although legal and non-binding instruments, plans and programmes have already been adopted to protect youth rights to sustainable development at different levels, we are convinced that further action still needs to be taken in order to adequately protect youngsters regional cultural and social needs.

8. Therefore, we strongly support the creation of an implementation plan on youth sustainable development, based on three axes: research, innovation and indicators.

Research:

Explore ideas to ensure that environmental information is available to young people and to overcome barriers to their participation in the decision making process at the local, national and international level.

Research new ways to invest in future generations:

- finding financial and human resources for funding youth projects
- increasing government investments for ensuring the implementation of sustainable development strategies
- developing new partnerships between private and public investments in this field
- launching sustainable development projects which provide long term employment opportunity for young people

Find solutions to overcome the inequitable access to clean water, basic sanitation systems, health services and decent living conditions, particularly for excluded segments of the youth population.

Innovation:

Introduce innovation in the development of strategies to incorporate the challenges of youth and sustainable development principles in national and international policies.

Improve and renovate national and international programmes in order to ensure sustainable livelihoods and healthy lifestyles for young people.

Promote youth leadership and finance projects created for youth and led by youth: from educational and awareness-raising initiatives, to those which aim to directly contribute to sustainable development. Such projects offer opportunities to cultivate youth leadership, including among disenfranchised or "at risk" youth.

Empower young people for action in the field of SD and peace:

- by raising awareness, improving education and sustaining interest of youth in this area
- by providing youth with legitimacy and effective instruments to become the gateway of future and to act as the link between education and action.

Promote youth in the area of environmental entrepreneurship, education, training and development, to help in building sustainable cities and to reduce rural environmental degradation.

Indicators:

Elaborate social, economic and environmental indicators to assess the success of the Millennium Development Goals related to youth.

We would strongly encourage all United Nations agencies and other international organisations to promote the importance of a joint implementation plan for youth sustainable development, to national governments, public authorities and other relevant actors. This plan should be developed in a way that takes regionally specific characteristics into account.

Note: Statement made also on behalf of the International Juvenile Justice Observatory.

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Statement submitted by AARP, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 30 and 31 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

08-40792 (E) 110708

Statement

AARP is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization of 39 million members whose mission is to enhance the quality of life for all as we age. AARP has collaborated with the UN for more than 20 years by participating in major conferences and helping to forge a global constituency on aging. Since its founding in 1958, AARP has served as a key source of information and advocacy on issues affecting aging populations by organizing policy forums, disseminating research, and strengthening the network of opinion leaders, policymakers, and advocates who believe that everyone should age with dignity.

AARP is pleased to be participating in the 2nd Annual Ministerial Review of the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and to work collaboratively towards scaling up the implementation of international agreements on sustainable development. As always, AARP stands prepared to offer its experience, advice and expertise. And we look forward to the prospect of extending our collaboration with ECOSOC at the 2009 AMR which will assess progress on implementing global public health agreements.

Ever since its debut at the Earth Summit in 1992, the concept of sustainable development has shown itself to be remarkably enduring and versatile. It has become the standard by which all development is evaluated, and it has easily accommodated many emergent advocacy agendas that, at an earlier moment in time, may not have seemed germane. Global ageing is one of those advocacy agendas.

Indeed, it is now conventional wisdom that the disposition of older people in virtually any society is intertwined with the crafting of strategies for economic growth, social equity, and environmental protection – the three pillars of sustainable development. In fact, global ageing is on the sustainable development radar precisely because it is an issue that demands a long-term, multi-generational perspective.

AARP has been among the leading voices calling for policy reform in response to demographic shifts that are, at this very moment, recalibrating social compacts and transforming the way global support systems meet the needs of the ageing. From AARP's vantage point, these population shifts raise pointed questions about how millions of older people will live and what will their quality of life will be like. And of course, another question must be asked as well: how sustainable are these social compacts?

We take this opportunity to reiterate to governments and stakeholders that safeguarding the interests of older people was written into two landmark global agreements on sustainable development: Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Programme of Implementation, following the World Summit on Social Development in 1995. The extent to which both of these agreements have been enacted at national levels is the subject of our discussion here at this Ministerial Review.

In a prescient nod to ageing populations on the horizon, chapter five of Agenda 21 called on governments to formulate "integrated" national policies on environment and development that take demographic trends into account. Such policies were to be anchored by holistic development goals — including the alleviation of poverty, secure livelihoods, and good health — that served all generations. Agenda 21 also called for more regular analysis of how the age structure of populations had an impact on public resource allocation decisions on education, health care, support for the elderly.

And in chapter six of the Johannesburg Programme of Implementation, it is noted that the goals of sustainable development can only be achieved by securing society-wide health gains via poverty eradication, and by reducing the prevalence of disease. Vulnerable groups such as the disabled, the elderly and indigenous people are singled out for special mention, as poor health undercuts their participation in sustainable development.

This is all to say that, at a time when a global ageing agenda was still nascent, these two documents were probably ahead of the curve in recognizing the symmetry between the elements of a sustainable "life course" and the elements of sustainable development. For its part, AARP has promoted a version of this tripartite formulation — economic security, social equity, and a healthy/liveable environment — ever since.

In conclusion, it is our recommendation that sights should be locked on to the idea that sustainable development is an opportunity for social integration, social protection, and inter-generational solidarity. The global ageing agenda and sustainable development agreements such as Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Programme represent linked platforms that could have a profound impact on future ageing policy. AARP is dedicated to improving the quality of life for older people by supporting these platforms and helping to create a society for all ages.